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hamilton street business district • 475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, New Jersey 08873-6400 • [www.hsbdcc.org](http://www.hsbdcc.org) • 732-873-2500, ext. 6400

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

August 13, 2013

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Hamilton Street Business District Corporation, I am appealing the decision to close the Post Office located on Franklin Boulevard in the Somerset section of Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey.

This facility has been in existence for decades and serves a densely populated area of the community. This area is an older commercial area that is realizing revitalization with the construction of new commercial buildings as well as new housing for senior citizens, veterans and the general public. In fact, the largest of these is literally about 100 feet from the Post Office that is proposed to be closed and will house hundreds of senior citizens and elderly veterans. Additionally, this neighborhood is among the most ethnically and racially diverse areas of the region.

The closure will create significant and severe hardship for the businesses and residents of this area. Perhaps, as was communicated in the letter and press release enclosed, that a smaller and less expensive location in this section of Franklin could be located for continued postal services such as window service and post office boxes. We would welcome the opportunity to assist you in this endeavor and already have property owners prepared to discuss this with your representatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Michael Pappas".

Michael Pappas  
Executive Director

## **Hamilton Street Business District**

**475 DeMott Lane  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
732-873-2500, Ext. 5400**

May 3, 2012

For Immediate release

Somerset, NJ – Business and community leaders are rallying behind an effort to save the old Somerset Post Office.

Today, leaders of the Hamilton Street Business District (HSDB) were among those that will visit the post office that has served the area of Franklin Township with the most diverse and dense population in the community.

Remi Onashile, president of the Board of Trustees for the Business Improvement District, said, "We are appealing to the postal service to keep some level of window service in this area of our community. Mayor Levine and the Township Council have gone on record in support of this effort and we greatly appreciate their efforts. The Hamilton Street area is the oldest commercial area in Franklin and deserves some additional consideration." Onashile is also a business owner on Hamilton Street for over twenty years, at Pro Beauty Supply.

The Board of Trustees of the Business District went officially on record in support of some continued postal service in the Business District. Several smaller, less costly alternative locations have been found and are being presented to postal service officials. It is understood by the Board that the existing facility on Franklin Boulevard is too large and most likely too costly to justify its continuation. The HSBD is made up of business owners and residents that each wants efficiency in any government agency, too.

President Onashile also conveyed the HSBD's position in a letter to US Senators Lautenberg and Menendez and US Representatives Pallone and Holt, requesting their assistance in this important endeavor.

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**Hamilton Street Business District**  
**475 DeMott Lane**  
**Somerset, NJ 08873**  
**732-873-2500, Ext. 6400**

April 27, 2012

New Jersey Congressional Delegation  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman,

The Hamilton Street Business District Board of Directors respectfully requests your assistance in seeking the reconsideration of the U.S. Postal Service's apparent decision to close the post office on Franklin Boulevard in the Somerset section of Franklin Township.

We believe that the elimination of window service and the availability of post office boxes will have a detrimental effect on the businesses and residents of our community.

This post office has been in existence for decades. Franklin Township has seen its population increase to well over 60,000 people in recent years. The postal facility on DeMott Lane in the Middlebush section of Franklin that hosts all sorting and delivery functions is three to four miles away. Our request is not meant to suggest that the status quo is appropriate. We understand that the existing rental amount is high for the limited window service offered. Our request is to maintain window service and the availability of post office boxes in the most densely populated area of the most populous municipality in Somerset County.

We understand the need for fiscal responsibility by the Postal Service. Our businesses and residents are taxpayers, too. We believe our proposal to have a smaller post office in the vicinity of the existing one on Franklin Boulevard is feasible, needed and appropriate.

In contacting area realtors and businesses we found three nearby locations that are considerably smaller and likely much less expensive. We offer these as potential alternatives and a viable solution.

The Franklin Township Council adopted a resolution which we believe captures the additional important points that should be considered, which we understand has been forwarded to you previously.

Our organization, the Hamilton Street Business District, was established to assist the small businesses in the oldest and most diverse commercial area of the Township. Your serious consideration of our request is needed and will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Remi Onashile  
President  
Board of Directors